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# THE MORNING NEWS

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**The 80th annual Christmas tree lighting at Rockefeller Center took place last night. The tree top is a sparkling Swarovski star that comprises of 25,000 crystals with 1,000,000 facets and measures 9.5 feet in diameter and 1.5 feet deep. The star weighs about 550 pounds and is composed of six outer rays and six smaller inner rays, the main surfaces of which are made of point-mounted safety glass**



## WHouse gets dolled up for Christmas



**A replica of Bo, the first family's Portuguese Water Dog, is on display during a preview of the 2012 White House holiday decorations November 28, 2012 at the White House in Washington, DC. The first lady welcomed military families, including Gold Star and Blue Star parents, spouses and children, to the White House for the first viewing of the 2012 holiday decorations.**

## ODEPA committing to improved financial support!

ORANJESTAD -- The Organización Deportiva Panamericano (ODEPA) decided this week in a meeting in Miami to invest extra funds in the 41 National Olympic Committees of this continent for the next four years. More than one million dollars directly, is what the Executive Committee is pledging. In total ODEPA will invest more than 46 million dollars in member organizations.

Nicole Hoevertsz, local member of the Executive Committee of ODEPA shared her satisfaction about this decision. She reported... "in my 14 years as part of the Executive Committee of ODEPA, we worked hard to create more funds. ODEPA is now a financially strong organization. This growth is going to be invested directly into athletes and training in our continent. This will make it possible for them to perform much better at Pan-American Games and at the Olympics. For the Aruba Olympic Committee this is

very good news."

ODEA also intends to begin an integral capacity program for trainers of national selections, with a view on the 2015 Pan-American Games in Toronto and the Olympic Games in Rio in 2016.

Athletes will be able to train for Games at renowned centers throughout the continent. And, the work commissions of

ODEPA will now have access to better funding to improve their activities.

In the weeks ahead COA will elaborate on their development plans together with the sport federations. They will delineate how to invest the additional funds to be made available. Their objective is to achieve better performance and concrete results in the ensuing years.



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## Cycling fast becoming most popular local sport!



Aruba's Tribal Cycling Club recently held a successful Duo Extreme MTB Aruba which left in the early morning from the Fisherman's Hut. Two ministers of government participated in the tremendous event so stimulating the sport of cycling which has grown considerably in the past two years.

More people are taking to the streets on their bikes. During the past event we witnessed runners from Curacao and the other islands who came to Aruba especially for the event. There were more or less 150 Mountain Bikers participating. The run started at 5:15 in the morning at the



Fisherman's Hut. In addition to this there was also a CMB walkathon with one thousand

participants.

The Ministers Visser and Sevinger remarked that it gave them much satisfaction to see so many people decide to get involved and exercise riding their bicycles again.

Michael Stamper, the coordinator of the event indicated that the complete run measured 65 kilometers on the road combined with an after event with an exposition and games.

The runners traveled behind the Lighthouse, pass alongside the coast to come out near the Alto Vista

## Santa Rosa plans bigger than ever Grand Christmas Bazaar!

PIEDRA PLAT -- On Sunday, December 2nd, Santa Rosa plans to hold their Christmas Bazaar, which promises to be grand and spectacular!

The Bazaar will be combined with the popular Santa Rosa Market, this time dedicated completely to the festive time of Christmas.

For the children there will be a special treat from 4:00 to 6:00 pm when Sinterklaas and his Zwarte Piets will be present to spend time with all the good children.

There will also be a Dino

Jump, a live manger with Santa Rosa animals, payaso Keke and a hotdog tent, hamburgers and sugar cotton candy. From 6:00 to 8:00pm Santa Claus is expected to visit Santa Rosa to prepare all the children for the tremendous Christmas season.

For all adults there will be tents selling Christmas food such as our ayaca, suls, Christmas ham, baked chicken, Pan di Hamon, pisca tempera and the famous Dutch 'oliebollen.'

*Continued on page 5*

**Sunday Balloon Raffle \$500,- Slot Tournament \$1000**

**Monday Balloon Raffle \$500,- Earn DOUBLE POINTS all day**

**Tuesday Balloon Raffle \$500,- Black Jack Tournament \$500**

**Wednesday Balloon Raffle \$500,- Cool Casino - LADIES NIGHT**

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Chapel, through Seroe Arikok, Yamanota, Bushiribana and then end up at Salina.

When the government began with Ciclovía that became something great because it brought the community together and expands our sports. This event was a first for Aruba. Pro-Cyclist Marc de Maar, known in the world of cycling, but who also rides mountain bikes, was among the participants as well. The goal is to bring more professional bikers to Aruba in the future. We can look forward to seeing cycling grow even more in the coming years on Aruba.



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## Best auto deals of the year will be at Car Xtravaganza 2012 this Saturday



End of the year celebrations on Aruba signals this is the time to find the best auto deals on the market.

Topcar, Ultimate Automobiles and Stern, are organizing the biggest auto sale of the year, Car Xtravaganza 2012, taking place this Saturday, December 1, 2012 at Stern Motors in Tanki Leendert.

This year the discounts are bigger than ever. Car Xtravaganza – with a 20 year track record - offers its customers the latest models of popular

auto brands like Suzuki, Nissan, Chevrolet and KIA. There are also used cars for sale, all under one roof.

What makes Car Xtravaganza a standout is the largest variety of used cars in excellent condition at great prices. Local bank representatives will be on hand to offer clients the best deals on financing. "We are sure that our customers will get a new or used car of good quality, guaranteed," a Stern spokesperson said.

*Continued on page 5*

## Aruba's YMCA Sec. Gen participates at seminar in Brazil



The Secretary General of the Aruba YMCA, Anky Vrolijk, recently participated at a seminar in Sao Paulo, Brazil, together with representatives of different YMCA's in the region. Vrolijk was among 39 other delegates from Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Panama and various YMCA's of Brazil. They deliberated and shared ideas and plans related to finding more effective ways to recruit funds for their necessary projects.

This was a four days seminar and included an evaluation

and discussion on what are the biggest concerns that each YMCA has with respect to their community. Reportedly, this exercise was very beneficial, because this led to a productive dialogue regarding different projects and how to execute them.

Anky Vrolijk said that her primary objective for attending the seminar was to explore new plans and ideas that could be implemented on Aruba as well. Different YMCA's presented their strategies in various areas, including the

positive and negative factors of each from which Vrolijk was able to learn.

During her visit to Brazil, Vrolijk had a very busy schedule. She visited several YMCA's in Sao Paulo. Many of them vary greatly from each other in size.

Andy Vrolijk indicated that Aruba stands to benefit greatly from her visit to Sao Paulo, Brazil, especially in the execution of different local projects. She said much was learned from this valuable experience for Aruba's YMCA.





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## Arzu Aruba Introduces its new "LOVE" collection



Designer Candy Rasmijn-Reino, creator of the hand-crafted jewelry by ARZU Aruba, is proud to announce her new collection "Love" is completed. It is an assortment of large and small pieces, sophisticated and romantic; the perfect accessories for today's fashion-minded woman.



Candy designs and hand-crafts each piece to be unique. She incorporates various materials, such as volcanic stones, semi precious gems from Israel, unusual colors, exclusive combinations, then accents them with wood, leather and 18 carat gold filled beads and wire.



Her works created quite a stir at the last Miami Fashion Week and were dubbed "Wearable Art" by admiring critics.

Candy is one of the featured artists at the Caribbean Queen store in Palm Beach Plaza, and invites all to come and view her newest collection. It can also be seen by visiting her ARZU ARUBA page on Facebook. "Like" the FB page to participate in a raffle to win accessories for the holiday season. The winner will be picked on December 22 and announced on the ARZU Facebook page.

## A unique holiday gift from Aruba: blown glass tree ornaments

The Terrafuse art glass studio in Tarabana will give a demonstration in glassblowing this Sunday, December 2, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. They will be creating unique, one of a kind Christmas tree ornaments. Noted island glass artists Ciro and Marian Abath are joined by US colleague Miguel Unson from Houston. Observers can enjoy watching glass ornaments and other objects take shape during a public display of this specialized skill, a favorite tourist stop for visitors to Venice, Italy, but far more accessible here in Aruba. Their glass studio in Noord, housed within a picturesque, classic cunucu house, is only 5 minutes from the high rise hotels on the route to the Alto Vista Chapel.

Glass blowing is an intensive process. Collecting molten glass with a temperature of over 2100 degrees Fahrenheit on a steel blow pipe, adding colored glass frits, blowing, reheating, blowing again and finishing the Christmas ornament with a small loop takes time and skill. There will be an assortment of the freshly made ornaments for sale.

Terrafuse has a stunning collection of glass art on exhibition in various techniques of flame working, glass bead making and ceramics. Students will give a demo in glass bead making on Sunday, as well. Short



bead making classes are offered for island visitors interested in learning a fascinating craft and creating their own special souvenir of their Aruban vacation.

For more information visit

the Terrafuse website: [www.arubaglassceramics.com](http://www.arubaglassceramics.com). Inquiries can be made at: [arubaglassceramics@gmail.com](mailto:arubaglassceramics@gmail.com) or call + 2975922978

Rosalie Klein

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## The Netherlands wants to make suspects hand over passwords

THE HAGUE (AFP) - The Dutch government said yesterday it plans to introduce a new law to force suspected terrorists and paedophiles to hand over computer passwords and punish those who refuse to comply.

"People suspected of having and trading in child pornography or terrorist activities will soon be compelled to work together to open encrypted files on their computers," the Dutch justice ministry said. Mooted by Justice Minister Ivo Opstelten, the bill will be introduced in parliament in early 2013.

The proposal comes after a paedophile called Robert M was sentenced to 18 years in jail earlier this year for abusing some 67 very young children.

The enquiry against him was slowed up substantially when police battled to get access to his computer, which contained images of him abusing dozens of children that were then shown on the Internet.

Dutch privacy laws forbid release of M's full surname.

"Encryption is on the rise among suspects -- especially within child pornography networks. Software is being used in which information is locked," the justice ministry said.

Under current law, suspects cannot be asked to cooperate in an enquiry that may incriminate them or lead to their own conviction. However, the idea to force a suspect to cooperate "was not inconsistent provided it's done under strict conditions," the ministry added.

The justice minister said he still needed to lay out the penalty for refusal to comply with a so-called "decryption mandate," but that he wanted it to be far heavier than the current three months imposed for refusal to comply with an official order.

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## Best auto deals of the year . . .

*Continued from page 3*



TopCar, Ultimate Automobiles and Stern offer individual discounts up to 10% on selected models. Stern is also featuring some super deals that will surely make an impact.

"The Car show people invite everyone to this event on December 1, beginning at 9 am and finishing at 1 pm" stated their spokesperson. "Check your local newspaper for our special price list, or visit Facebook, Hot Sales page. We await you!"

## Santa Rosa plans bigger than ever Grand Christmas Bazaar!

*Continued from page 2*

You will also find creole food, sanger jena, carni porco on the grill and pork in mushrooms.

A large assortment of cakes and sweet stuff like quesillo, dulce de leche and cup cakes will be on display for purchase as well. All of these are unique Aruban delicacies with their unique Aruban names!

There will be tents selling trees, fruits, fresh vegetables, meat and different herbal

remedies. These are in order to help everyone do their shopping and purchase our local products before Christmas.

Music will be plentiful with local groups performing the popular Aruba gaitas, such as the Sensacionales, Gaita Autenitco, Las Unicas and Grupo Sparkle.

During the Bazaar they will also present the donation collected from the BarbaRosa Project. This will be handed

over to the Edmund Harms Foundation.

Santa Rosa invites the entire Aruban community to come out and enjoy the afternoon at Santa Rosa for this very spectacular festive happening replete with good food, drinks, snacks, delicacies, Sinterklaas, Santa Claus and good Aruban music! The day starts at 2:00 in the afternoon and will continue until 8:00 in the evening.



## International News

### Britain pressures Palestinians, Europe split on UN vote



LONDON (AFP) - Britain threatened Wednesday to abstain from a vote for enhanced Palestinian status at the United Nations unless the Palestinians commit to fresh talks with Israel, highlighting European divisions on the vote.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said that in order to secure Britain's vote at the UN General Assembly in New York today, the Palestinians would have to unconditionally agree to negotiations

on a lasting two-state deal with Israel.

France has led several European countries in supporting the Palestinian bid for their UN status to be upgraded to that of a "non-member state", which would win them new global recognition.

Germany also said Wednesday it would not vote in favour of the bid.

Hague said to win Britain's vote, the Palestinians would also have to pledge not to sue Israel for war crimes through the International Criminal Court (ICC) and confirm that the UN resolution would not apply retroactively.

He said the guarantees sought by Britain would "not be difficult to make" and could be made either in the text of the Palestinian resolution, or in accompanying statements.

But it looked likely that Britain would abstain after a Palestinian official said there would be no changes to the resolution before the vote.

Even without Britain's vote, the Palestinians are poised to win the backing of a majority of the General Assembly's 193 member states, although they face strong opposition from

the United States and Israel.

Along with France, European supporters of the Palestinian upgrade include Spain, Norway, Denmark, Greece and Switzerland.

Lithuania has said it will abstain on the vote, which would give the Palestinians the same diplomatic status at the UN as the Vatican.

If the request is approved, it will give the Palestinians access to a range of UN agencies and also potentially to the ICC, where they could accuse Israel of war crimes.

Hague called on the United States to do everything in its power to revive negotiations, which were frozen in September 2010 when Israel refused a Palestinian demand to extend a moratorium on settlement building in the occupied territories.

He also called on Israel to be ready to re-enter talks, and urged its government to "avoid reacting in a way that damages the peace process" should the Palestinians win today's vote.

The European Union has been striving for more than a year to adopt a united front on the Palestinians's UN status.

### More Republicans troubled by Rice role on Benghazi

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Two more Republican senators expressed deep reservations Wednesday about voting to confirm UN envoy Susan Rice as US secretary of state without more answers about her role in the Benghazi affair.

The embattled Rice met for a second straight day with Republican senators to try to mollify conservatives threatening to block her confirmation if President Barack Obama nominates her to replace Hillary Clinton.

But Senator Susan Collins, a moderate from Maine, joined other Republicans who have sharply criticized Rice for portraying the September 11 attack on the US mission in Libya as stemming from a protest against an anti-Islam film.

"I continue to be troubled by the fact that the UN ambassador decided to play a political role at the height of a contentious presidential election campaign by agreeing to go on the Sunday shows to present the administration's position," said Collins after her

hour-long meeting with Rice.

Rice met separately with Senator Bob Corker, a Republican from Tennessee who expressed outrage at the US administration's actions before and after the attack.

Rice steered clear of reporters for a second straight day as she faced her critics on Capitol Hill.

If it was a charm offensive, it may not have worked. Obama would need 60 votes in the Senate to over-ride Republican blocking tactics.

The Democrats will have 55 senators in their camp when the new Congress convenes in early January, meaning that if Rice were to be confirmed, at least five Republicans would have to vote in her favor.

Collins' remarks echoed those of her more conservative fellow Republican senators -- John McCain, Lindsey Graham and Kelly Ayotte -- who met with Rice on Tuesday and expressed similar reservations.

The controversy centers on Rice's remarks made on Sunday talk shows five days after the assault on the US mission

in Benghazi, in which ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed.

Using talking points provided by the Central Intelligence Agency, Rice said it was the government's "best assessment" that the assault appeared to have started with a "spontaneous" reaction against an amateur anti-Muslim video.

In a statement after Tuesday's meeting, Rice admitted for the first time that the intelligence community's talking points "were incorrect in a key respect: there was no protest or demonstration in Benghazi."

Collins acknowledged that Rice "made those conflicting assertions (when) there was conflicting evidence, that is true." But the senator said that others, including Libyan President Mohamed al-Megaryef, knew early on that the attack was a pre-meditated act of terror.

After meeting Rice, Corker insisted he would give her "a full hearing" if she is nominated, but he appeared to suggest that he, too, would prefer another nominee.



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### Obama wants fiscal cliff deal by Christmas

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama on Wednesday called for a deal with Republicans before Christmas on averting a tax and deficit crunch that it is feared could pitch the economy into recession.

Obama gathered middle class families at the White House to up his campaign for Republicans to join Democrats in Congress to pass an extension to tax cuts for most Americans, while bowing to his pressure to raise rates on top earners.

"I want to make sure everybody understands this debate is not just about numbers. It's a set of major decisions that are going to affect millions of families all across this country in very significant ways," Obama said.

"I believe that both parties can agree on a framework that does that in the coming weeks. In fact, my hope is to get this done before Christmas."

If there is no agreement before the end of the year, taxes on all Americans will rise, raising the prospect of a sudden draining of consumer spending and fears that the still fragile economy could be thrown back into recession.

Obama also called on Americans to mobilize to support his position, just weeks after his re-election triumph, by posting on Facebook and sending tweets marked with the hashtag #My2K.

"Tell members of Congress what a \$2,000 tax hike would mean to you," he said.

Obama was later to huddle with top CEOs at the White House, including Lloyd Blankfein, CEO of investment giant Goldman Sachs, and Yahoo! chief executive Marissa Mayer, as part of his campaign for a debt and deficit deal.

On Friday, he will crank up pressure on Republicans even more by making a campaign-style trip to a manufacturing business in Pennsylvania.

The year-end deadline is the result of legislation passed when Republicans and Democrats failed to reach a previous long-term deficit and budget deal, and was meant to concentrate minds of lawmakers and spur compromise.

Obama campaigned on a platform of raising taxes on individuals who make more than \$200,000 per year and families that rake in more than \$250,000, as a way of raising extra revenue to tame the deficit.

Republicans insist that raising taxes on the wealthy would be counter-productive, would hurt small business owners, and would slow economic growth and dampen job creation.

The parties are also feuding about where to cut expenditures, with some Republicans opposed to any trimming of the military budget and Democrats guarding social safety net entitlement programs.



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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Venezuelan millionaire, minister elected US mayor

MIAMI (AFP) - A Venezuelan-born millionaire and evangelical minister was elected mayor of the town of Doral, a suburb of Miami, Florida, after a run-off vote following the November 6 election, officials said.

Luigi Boria, 54, defeated rival Frank Bolanos with 55 percent of the vote, according to official results out late Tuesday.

Boria is a minister at the Alpha & Omega church in southwest Miami. Born Catholic, he became an evangelical after recovering from hepatitis.

Boria made his fortune through his company, TWC The Wise Computer, which he opened in Doral in 1989. He was elected to the Doral city council in 2010.

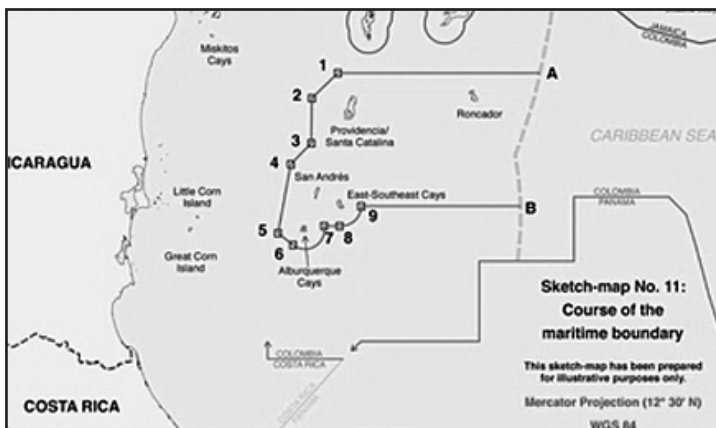
Doral has seen its population of Venezuelan immigrants climb so dramatically since 2000 that locals have nicknamed it "Doralzuela."

According to US census figures, the Venezuelan-born population in the United States has increased 135 percent in ten years, reaching 215,000 in 2010. The increase coincides with the rise of leftist Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's president since 1999.

Most Venezuelans live in southern Florida, especially the Miami area.

Community leaders say they want to replicate the political success of Cuban-Americans, many of whom who arrived as exiles fleeing the Castro regime and actively entered US politics.

### Colombia renounces Hague court over boundary dispute



BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombia said yesterday it would no longer recognize the International Court of Justice's jurisdiction in border disputes following a recent ruling that redrew its maritime boundary with Nicaragua.

President Juan Manuel Santos said that the country's territorial and marine boundaries should be established through treaties, and not sentences

handed down the court in the Hague.

Santos said Colombia would still seek to settle territorial disputes peacefully.

Colombia has protested a ruling by the court on November 19 that confirmed Colombia's sovereignty over the San Andres archipelago in the Caribbean but redrew marine boundaries in a way that favored Nicaragua.

### BP banned from US government contracts

WASHINGTON (AFP) - British oil giant BP was banned from winning new US government contracts yesterday after agreeing to plead guilty to criminal charges in the deadly 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster.

The decision was announced hours before two BP supervisors were set to make

their first court appearance on manslaughter charges for their failure to prevent the deadly blast on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig.

A former BP executive charged with obstruction of justice for lying about how much oil was gushing out of the runaway well also appeared in the New Orleans federal court yesterday.

Two weeks after agreeing to pay \$4.5 billion to settle criminal charges in the case, the US Environmental Protection Agency ordered BP "temporarily" blocked from obtaining new contracts until it can prove it meets US government business standards.

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**R**io de Janeiro, Brazil—Warm rays of sunshine highlight the splendor and color of the famous statue of the Christ the Redeemer high on top of the Corcovado Hill in Rio de Janeiro as the day comes to an end. Crown Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Máxima walk over the world famed Copacabana Boulevard with a big smile with next to them Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman. They are representatives of the Dutch Kingdom economic mission to Brazil which took place last week. Businesspeople and press who joined the delegation await them at Rio's splendid beach, the world famous Copacabana. Prime Minister Eman most certainly did his part, representing Aruba in a way that made the small island shine in all its splendor in the immense Brazil. Eman made the Kingdom reach further than Europe and brought it to the entrance of South America. His efforts drew much appreciation from the Dutch Royal family that continuously has supported Aruba and has highlighted the country in their presentations. Thankful for this support, a smiling Eman accompanies the Royal couple up to the final event. But for Eman this is not the end of the mission. There are many reasons to celebrate the good work and hear the appreciative words at the reception at the end of the mission. Eman decides it is high time to comply with a personal priority: visit a slum, locally called a favela, in Rio. The Prime Minister, a man that has loves people wherever they live, wants to meet with those that were part of his presentations and in his heart all week.

Convinced that the success and economic growth of a country should translate itself in a better quality of life and opportunities for everyone, especially those that face misery and hardship, Eman had pre-arranged a visit of himself and two Aruba journalists, Nelson "Speed" Andrade and Marko Espinoza to the Morro de Babylonia slum, or the City on the Hill, located on the nearby hills just five minutes from the glamorous Copacabana. The Prime Minister hadn't told officials that he would be part of the visit because that would have complicated his personal mission for protocol and security reasons considering the high profile of the Kingdom delegation. Those who are familiar with the Prime Minister's stance on neighborhood and poverty themes, know that no big brother, friends or officials can change his mind on this issue. His visit to Haiti after the big earthquake in January 2010 is proof of that. Then Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende and Defense Minister Eimert van Middelkoop deemed a visit to Haiti too risky, but Eman wanted to show his solidarity and a few hours after the quake he went to Port-au-Prince to assist the Dutch Consul General with his relief mission.

**Undercover Prime Minister**  
With the same determination, Eman leaves the reception after a while, without drawing much attention, and departs for the City on the Hill. Awaiting the 'undercover Prime Minister' and the journalists is Edson Alves, a youngster who is born and bred in the slum. Police officers escort the Aruban delegation to the bottom of the

hill, not knowing that the Prime Minister is part of the small group, and leave the three Arubans with Alves. Together with Alves, who is also under the impression that he is dealing with three journalists, the group starts the ascent on the steep stairs to the slum. It soon dawns on the Aruban guests that the shimmer and happiness down at the Copacabana Beach is not the only face of Brazil. Though not obvious to everyone, Rio de Janeiro does have

realize that a Prime Minister is among his guests. He is surprised and a bit shocked at first, but after recovering, the young man, still a bit nervous, and his delegation continue their walk. Proudly he introduces Eman to everybody along the way. „The Prime Minister wants to get to know us". Eman is struck by the poverty, but as the ever optimist he decides to remain positive, convinced that change is always possible and that one day these people would also share in



great poverty. Slums or favelas, and massive neighborhoods of marginalized people cover the borders of the city, housing a population of which more than one third has no or very little education, where people live in misery with hardly any sanitary facilities in place. Constant violence and drug dealing gangs dominate the streets. It doesn't take long for Alves to

the economic growth of the seventh largest country in the world.

#### High fives

Soon, the Prime Minister is hugging people and greeting children with high fives and 'boops' or 'bunks', as he always does when visiting the districts on his island. He bombards Alves with questions about his family, his life in the

looking for opportunities to create a better life for themselves and their families, a chance to attend university, to get a better job and a higher salary. The government projects has created opportunities for people like Alves who decided he wanted to be a tour guide, to show people his neighborhood and tell of the improvements that were being realized.

# ARUBA UNDER POV

slum and the general developments in the neighborhood. He listens attentively to the answers of Alves, the guide who also sees himself as a peacemaker. He wants to bring change to the slum. He explains that until a few years ago, before the government programs started, the slum was considered a no-go area. Basic services like water, current and sewage lines were not present. The official reason was that the slum areas were hard to reach because of their high location. The criminal gangs were another reason for authorities to stay away. But with the implementation of a series of projects, things are slowly starting to improve, says Alves.

According to the guide, people on the outside generally have a bad impression of slum residents. „They think that everyone here is a drug dealer or a criminal, but that is not true". Just like in every community in the world, people are



# ARUBA PRIME MINISTER GOES UNDERCOVER IN RIO FAVELA

## Poverty and hope go hand in hand in the City on the Hill

Nelson (Speed) Andrade - Marko Espinoza



the latter's safety. Alves laughs. He obviously enjoys the nervousness of the authorities. The Prime Minister ignores the concerns and starts to go higher up to see more of the slum. They encounter some of Alves' family members. Alves says that maybe in his explanation to the Prime Minister he has focused too much on the difficult material aspects in his neighborhood. He proudly adds that for him the love and compassion that exists in his neighborhood are so important to him that he would never leave. He shows Eman the small house that he is building. Together with his neighbors, they have carried every single block up the steep hill. The Prime Minister replies that he is a great believer in

love, compassion, in doing things together. He tells Alves to keep up the good faith and not to ever give up.

Eman wants to continue talk to Alves about the pannabol matches in the Aruba neighborhoods, the local cinema nights and the cleaning of the districts, but authorities are now telling Alves in a more forceful way that the Prime Minister must come down now. Once down, Eman and Alves say goodbye as good friends, with a big hug as if they have known each other for years.

(This article was written by Nelson "Speed" Andrade and Marko Espinoza and translated by Suzanne Koelega)

### Less violence

Security in the favela has greatly improved. There are fewer violent confrontations between the gangs and police. These shootings always claimed a lot of lives in the slum, many of them innocent victims. The violence is gradually decreasing now that government is dedicating attention to some slums. Daily things like walking to school or work are less risky than before. Children are even starting to play on the streets which until now were dominated by drug dealers. Despite the improvements, many residents would leave if they had the chance. Not Alves. „With this change, we can help youngsters who are lost to get back on the right track. They see that I am a good person. They need role models. When people like me leave, they no longer have a good example. We have to show them that studying, learning a trade is important. I want to teach people positive things”.

The delegation walks from house to house. Eman talks to people, encouraging them to stay positive and not to give up hope. His message: if government is starting to help, grasp the opportunity and work with them. The Prime Minister explains that in Aruba

too government is improving poor districts that were neglected for a long time. Using the several single mothers that they encounter along the way as an example, Eman says that his government puts a lot of emphasis on helping disadvantaged people. He explains Aruba's social welfare system to Alves and says that government has increased the social assistance, the so-called onderstand by 25 percent.

### Social programs

Looking at the many children in the Babylonia slum, Eman elucidates on Aruba's new social programs to help children from needy families. He tells Alves of the children's allowance that was introduced to assist families with a monthly amount of US \$110 per child. A single mother in Aruba with two children now receives US \$750 per month in social aid, whereas in the past she only got US \$330 from government. Not only people without a job have it difficult, says Eman. Also those with a minimum salary and the elderly having to live on a government pension are facing hard times back home, he says. The Government of Aruba has come to their aid with a repair allowance for minimum wage earners and pensioners.

Alves asks about youngsters in Aruba as he is especially worried about the fate of young people in his neighborhood. He fears that help of the Brazilian government is too late for this group that has ended up on the streets and on the wrong track. „They are the danger of tomorrow, for themselves, their family and the entire neighborhood”, he says. Alves introduces some of these youngsters to Eman. The Prime Minister gives them a 'bunks' and a smile emerges on their face. As they continue their walk, Eman tells Alves of the 'Pinta Bo Bario' (Paint Your Neighborhood) program that his government introduced to renovate the districts. The program provides the opportunity for youngsters to work in their own neighborhood. They have an income, a sense of being valued and also gain working experience. He explains about the Social Formation project for youngsters as well.

### Nervous authorities

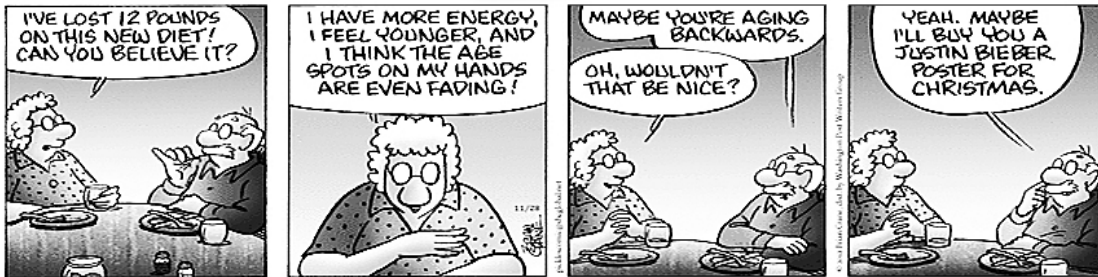
After a while, local authorities find out that Aruba's Prime Minister is walking through the slum without their permission. Alves receives phone call after phone call asking him to bring Eman back down the stairs as they were worried for



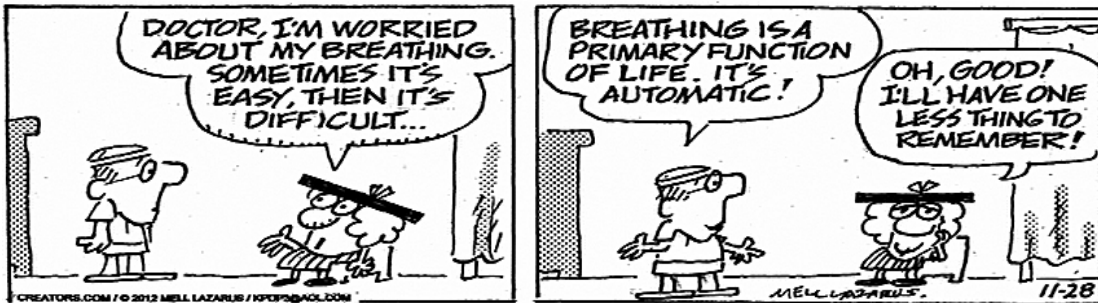


## COMICS

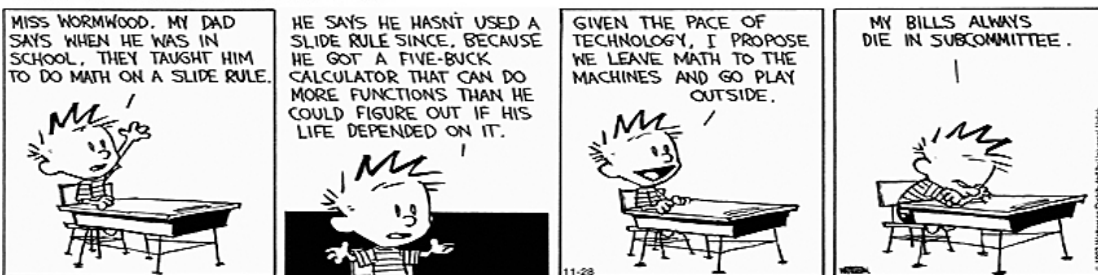
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## ACROSS

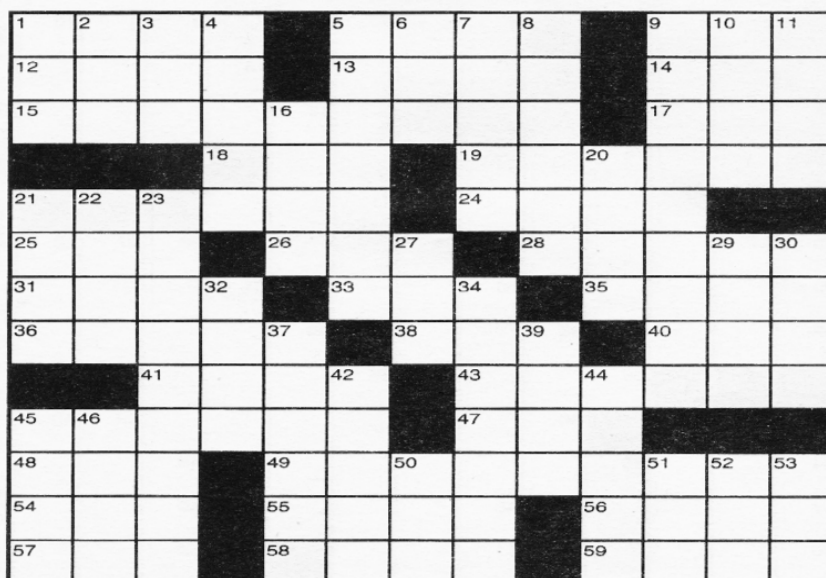
1. Booty
5. Office paper unit
9. Beau Brummell
12. Uris's "\_\_\_ 18"
13. Architect Saarinen
14. Tokyo, once
15. 1990 Derby winner
17. One tenth of a sen
18. Forest mom
19. Had occasion for
21. Her \_\_\_ Highness (Princess Grace's title)
24. Italian wine city
25. "The Last King of Scotland" role for Forest
26. Item in the band's tour bus
28. Choir member
31. Active
33. Dry, of wine
35. "Family" actress Thompson
36. \_\_\_ for Fears ('80s pop duo)
38. Which person?
40. GNP-watching org.
41. Cut-up
43. \_\_\_ sucker (penny candy choice)
45. "Purple Rain"

## DOWN

47. Hillary Clinton, \_\_\_ Rodham
48. Slangy hat
49. 1974 Derby winner
54. Frittata ingredient
55. Old worker
56. Trickle
57. Grow up
58. Stagger
59. "Spanning-the-generations" tale

4. "En \_\_\_!"
5. Cashes in
6. Snaky swimmer
7. Battlefield
8. Composer Moussorgsky
9. 1986 Derby winner
10. Garfield's pal
11. Frog's home
16. New Rochelle school
20. Summers: Fr. material
21. Delta
22. Falco of "Nurse Jackie"
23. 1972 Derby winner
27. Sunday bench
29. Old Greek theaters

30. Piquant
32. One of John Boy's sisters
34. \_\_\_ surf (wield a remote)
37. Mia Hamm's sport
39. Butter dish pretender
42. Bedevil
44. Gives an advance
45. Cop a \_\_\_
46. Diana of "Mystery"
50. Compass dir.
51. Coach Parseghian
52. Enjoy, à la Kerouac
53. Clean air org.



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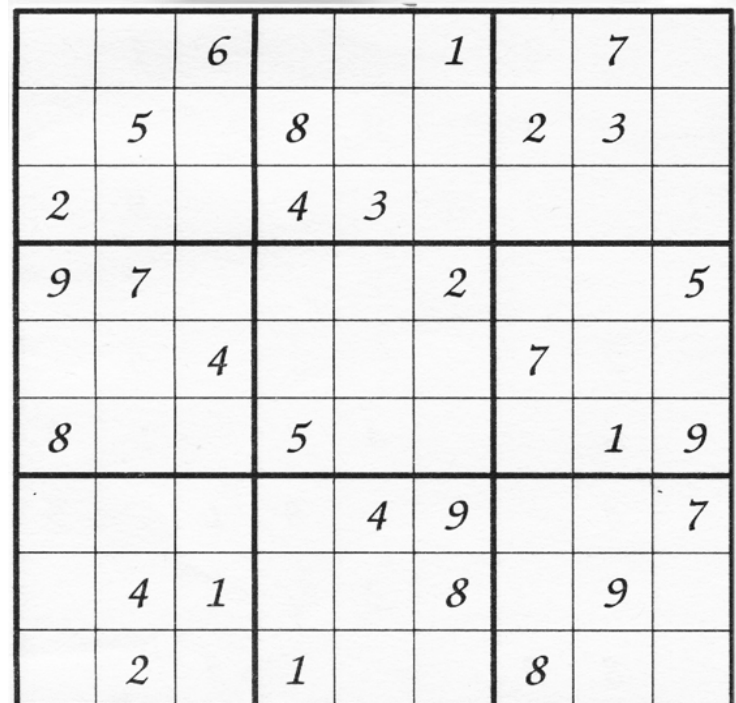
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## Sudoku



SOLUTION

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9	6	5	8	7	2	1	4	3
2	1	6	4	3	5	8	9	7
6	1	5	7	2	5	7	9	8
7	9	2	5	8	6	4	1	3
5	8	4	7	1	9	5	2	6
1	5	9	2	4	7	8	6	3
4	5	7	9	6	8	2	1	3
8	2	6	1	5	7	9	3	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9





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## Cliff worries spread as manufacturing slows

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Businesses around the country are increasingly worried about the looming fiscal cliff, the Federal Reserve said yesterday in its Beige Book survey of regional economies.

While consumer spending has picked up pace in recent weeks, manufacturing has fallen off, the Fed said, with business owners expressing worries about the sharp tax hikes and spending cuts that could hit them if Washington cannot agree on new legislation to avert the cliff.

The Fed said that nine of its 12 districts reported modest or better economic growth in the weeks since its October 10 report.

The New York region was weaker due to disruptions from the superstorm Sandy that shut the city and surrounding areas

down at the end of October. Growth was also weaker in the Boston and Philadelphia regions, both affected to a lesser extent by Sandy.

Across most of the regions, businesses surveyed expressed increasing worries about the looming deficit-slashing policies of the cliff, which will hit from January 1 if Democrats and Republicans in Washington cannot negotiate a less harsh plan for reducing the deficit.

"Manufacturing contacts from five of the twelve districts expressed concern about the outlook for 2013, in part, due to the uncertainty regarding the outcome of the fiscal cliff," the report said.


"Many of our contacts are expecting a slight weakening in business activity during the next few months due to seasonal factors and uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the fiscal cliff," the Fed's Cleveland regional branch reported.



Singapore's economy and financial system have been resilient through the global financial crisis but there are some risks, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) said in its latest Financial Stability Review yesterday. Growth has slowed markedly but is still expected to be positive this year and the next. The Singapore banking system's funding profiles and asset quality have remained sound, and local banking groups continue to be well capitalised.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

HAL	ERR	FRO
ODE	FRAUD	LID
WON	LEND	AHAND
DEE	GENE	
ALTER	CRIB	
ALEC	HERE	VAN
NOAH	EGO	BASE
DOS	SAGS	UNIT
FEET	STOLE	
RUNT	EYE	
ALENDER	BE	NBA
GEL	YOURS	DUD
OAF	NEA	LTS



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## Finance

### Bankia cuts 6,000 jobs in Spain bank shakeup

MADRID (AFP) - The rescue of Spain's crippled banks took a big step forward yesterday when Brussels gave a green light for a big slice of rescue aid in a crisis shake-up that Bankia said would cost it 6,000 jobs.

European banking stocks plunged after the announcement by Bankia, the giant that sparked a 100-billion-euro bailout for Spain's banks by the eurozone, but the world's emergency lender the IMF said the sector overhaul was "on track".

The Bank of Spain meanwhile said the country appeared stuck in a job-killing recession in the fourth quarter, four years after the collapse of the real estate boom that brought low banks and the broader economy.

The European Commission cleared the restructuring of four Spanish banks -- Bankia, Novagalicia, CatalunyaCaixa and Banco de Valencia -- paving the way for Spain to receive 37 billion euros (\$48 billion) of aid next month.

The Spanish government

had stepped in to save Bankia with a 20-billion-euro bailout in May, and soon had to seek the rescue line of up to 100 billion euros from its eurozone partners as the whole sector wobbled.

The Commission said the restructuring of the four banks "will allow them to become viable in the long-term without continued state support".

As part of the plan, Banco de Valencia will be sold and integrated into CaixaBank. The other three will see their balance sheets shrink by more than 60 percent by 2017 compared with 2010.

Bankia is set to get 18 billion euros of the latest funds. NovaGalicia will get 5.5 billion euros of the payment, CatalunyaCaixa 9.0 billion euros and Banco de Valencia 4.5 billion euros.

Combined with previous aid from the Spanish government, Bankia will have received about 36 billion euros, NovaGalicia 10 billion, CatalunyaCaixa 14 billion and Banca de Valencia 7.0 billion - 67 billion euros in all.




## Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of:  
11/28/2012

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britain	GBP	2.78	2.83	2.89
Switzerland	CHF	190.64	191.36	192.16
Netherlands	EUR	227.52	229.60	231.90
Sweden	SEK	25.66	26.38	27.18
Denmark	DKK	29.81	30.53	31.33
Norway	NOK	30.31	31.03	31.83
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## 96.5% Pica

### New Radio Talk Show on Magic 96.5FM



Dynamic ladies: from L to R - Rona Coster - Jacqueline Suttle and Tabitha Fecunda

Three popular media personalities are celebrating 60 days on-the-air next week. In late September broadcasting queen Erin Croes, the owner of Magic 96.5FM, conceived a brand new radio talk-show, starring three of her close friends, Jacqueline Suttle, Tabitha Fecunda and Rona Coster.

She even gave it a name, 96.5% Pica – which could be loosely translated as 96.5% peppery - before presenting the idea to the trio of media personalities, knowing they will be as enthusiastic as she was about the idea of bringing

hot, live talk, fun commentary and original thinking to prime time, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, from 11am to 12noon, on Magic 96.5FM.

As the ladies not surprisingly said yes, they immediately went to work, to figure out the peppery angle and the hot format for their show. Following a few brainstorming sessions they came up with a Ying and Yang balance, with two topics each time, one heavy, one light, presented with a sense of humor and filled with well-researched facts. Some more complicated

topics even benefit from expert call ins during the show.

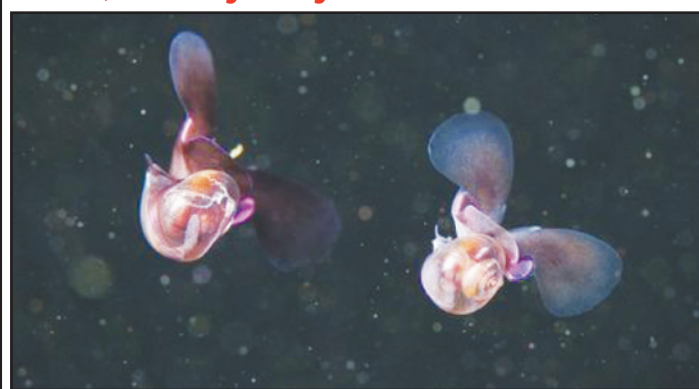
To date, the super-interesting discussions live-on-the-air covered among others: Should you have Sex with Your Ex, Women with Short Hair, Menopause, Sweat, Control Freaks, On-Line Dating, Andropause, Mothers in Law - enemies or friends, Should Men Make More Money than Women, What is the true role of Godmothers and Godfathers, What can we learn from Gangnam Style, Why Do Women and Men Change After Marriage, Shoes and Women, What are Men Attracted to, What are Women Attracted to, Is Aruba Prepared for a Natural Disaster, and Good and Bad Energies, do they exist?!

The show usually starts off with a short introduction of the topics and some casual conversation between Pica 1, Jacqueline Suttle, Pica 2 Tabitha Fecunda and Pica 3 Rona Coster, then they handle their subjects with great enthusiasm and expertise.

Jacqueline who is a reporter and a journalist by profession demonstrates fearlessness and determination when tackling even the most difficult of subjects, while Tabitha who is a TV presenter delivers humor and unexpected True Confessions, from her own life experience. Rona Coster usually provides the research, with Google and Wikipedia at her finger tips.

Like them on Facebook, or tune in to the show, you may send in your suggestions, or just sit back and enjoy a fun hour with Aruba's newest radio personalities, of 96.5% Pica!

## What's eating the sea butterfly? CO<sub>2</sub>, study says



PARIS (AFP) - Rising acidity is eating away the shells of tiny snails, known as "sea butterflies", that live in the seas around Antarctica, leaving them vulnerable to predators and disease, scientists said. The study presents rare evidence of living creatures suffering the results of ocean acidification caused by rising carbon dioxide levels from fossil fuel burning, the British Antarctic Survey said in a statement. The tiny snail, named for two wing-like appendices, does not necessarily die as a result of losing its shell, but it becomes an easier target for fish and bird predators, as well as infection.

## Chinese paper falls for 'sexiest man' parody



-- The People's Daily, the official newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party, appears to have been fooled by the Onion, a satirical U.S. newspaper and website. The People's Daily, a very non-satirical paper with a self-reported circulation of 2.4 million readers, is trumpeting the Onion's announcement that it has selected North Korean dictator Kim Jong Eun as the "sexiest man alive" in 2012. The People's Daily report includes dozens of photos of steely-eyed Kim alongside quotes from the Onion's clearly unserious declaration that "this Pyongyang-bred heartthrob is every woman's dream come true." The state-run newspaper reproduces almost the entire Onion article, apparently unaware that it's a joke meant to mock, rather than celebrate, this Chinese ally.



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## Jailhouse rock!

LIMA (AFP) - The head of a Peruvian maximum security prison was fired after video footage showed jubilant inmates drinking and dancing to live music with outside guests in a prison patio.

The party was to celebrate the birthday of Julio Rubio Roldan, who is serving time at the Miguel Castro Castro prison, according to America TV.

The video shows guests, including women and children, dancing and mingling with the inmates. Two cumbia bands equipped with electronic keyboards, drums and concert-sized speakers provide the live music.

Rubio dances, laughs, drinks whiskey, takes a phone call and accepts a birthday cake in the video. The crowd sings along when one of the bands plays "Happy Birthday."

Castro Castro prison warden Jose Luis Mendoza and all of the guards on duty the day of the party were fired, said Julio Magan, head of Peru's prison system.

"These are corrupt, mafia-type personnel," Magan said. "This is a scandal that we are not going to allow."

The inmates involved in organizing the party were also transferred to other prisons, Magan said.

A furious Prime Minister Juan Jimenez said he expected "more drastic sanctions," including criminal charges against the prison staff for allowing the party.

## Hit US TV show 'cursed,' says former star Sheen

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Perennially troubled US actor Charlie Sheen said that hit TV series "Two and a Half Men," on which he starred for years, is "cursed," after one of its stars called the show "filth".

Sheen, who was sacked from the comedy show last year following his own public meltdown, was speaking as the show's producers remained tight-lipped about how they will deal with the outburst by actor Angus T. Jones.

"With Angus's Hale-Bopp-like meltdown, it is radically clear to me that the show is cursed," Sheen told celebrity bible People magazine, referring to the fiery comet.

Nineteen-year-old Jones, who reportedly earns \$350,000 an episode playing the character Jake in the show now starring Ashton Kutcher, attacked the program after apparently

undergoing a religious revelation.

"If you watch 'Two and a Half Men,' please stop watching it. I'm on 'Two and a Half Men,' and I don't want to be on it," he said in a video posted by the Forerunner Christian Church on YouTube.

Jones signed up for a new one-year contract in May for the show -- from which Sheen was sacked after he gave a series of increasingly erratic and explosive interviews about the show's producer, Chuck Lorre. Sheen -- who portrayed hedonistic jingle writer Charlie Harper -- was replaced by Kutcher on the top-rated comedy series, which has been a hit since it was launched in 2003.

The show's makers have so far declined to comment publicly on the young actor's outburst.

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## SPORTS

## Football: Messi favourite for record fourth Ballon d'Or



PARIS (AFP) - Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi will discover who his rivals are for this year's Ballon d'Or today when FIFA and France Football announce the three finalists for the prestigious award in Sao Paulo.

Argentine Messi appears the overwhelming favourite for the honour and should he be crowned, he would become the first player to win the award four times having already joined French legend Michel Platini as the only other player to triumph on three consecutive occasions.

In normal circumstances, Cristiano Ronaldo's haul of 46 goals in La Liga last season -- only surpassed by Messi's astonishing 50 -- would likely have placed him in pole position, but Messi's record-breaking feats have left the Portuguese talisman in his shadow.

Messi's brace in Barca's 4-0 win at Levante on Sunday lifted him onto 82 goals for the season, just three short of Gerd Mueller's all-time calendar record of 85 set in 1972.

The 25-year-old also drew

level with Ruud van Nistelrooy as the second-highest scorer in Champions League history with 56 goals last week, trailing only former Real Madrid and Schalke striker Raul's tally of 71.

Unsurprisingly, Messi has the backing of Barca teammate Gerard Pique -- one of eight Spaniards on the 23-man shortlist.

"I respect those who believe that Cristiano Ronaldo deserves the Ballon d'Or, but I live with Leo, he is an alien, and Cristiano is the best of the humans," reasoned the Barcelona defender.

With Ronaldo, who guided his country to the semi-finals of Euro 2012 only for Portugal to lose to their Iberian neighbours Spain on penalties, also assured of making the cut, the identity of the third nominee will arguably be today's most intriguing revelation.

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## Football: Bayern open 10-point gap with win at Freiburg

BERLIN (AFP) - Bayern Munich opened a 10-point gap at the top of the German league on Wednesday with a 2-0 victory at Freiburg ahead of their key Bundesliga clash at home to champions Borussia Dortmund this weekend.

Victory at 10-man Freiburg means Munich extended their

lead by two points as the chasing pack lost ground.

Bayern took the lead after only 12 minutes when Germany star Mueller slotted home a penalty after Freiburg defender Oliver Sorg's handball.

The hosts were then reduced to 10 men moments later when Senegal defender Fallou Diagne was shown a straight red when he brought down Swiss midfielder Xherdan Shaqiri with only the goalkeeper to beat.

With Dortmund looming, Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes made four changes in the second-half, including taking off striker Mario Gomez, and Munich made sure of the three points when Anatolij Tymoschuk netted their second on 79 minutes.

Bayer Leverkusen took Dortmund's place in second spot after their 4-1 win at Werder Bremen to claim their fourth win in their last five league games.

Ex-Germany midfielder Gonzalo Castro scored the first two goals for Leverkusen before Nils Petersen pulled one back for Bremen with a 54th-minute header.

Leverkusen made sure of the three points when captain Simon Rolfes drilled home his shot on 74 minutes and five minutes later midfielder Jens

Hegeler grabbed their fourth.

Borussia Moenchengladbach are up to ninth after their 2-0 win at home to VfL Wolfsburg while VfB Stuttgart earned a 2-1 win at home to bottom side Augsburg.

On Tuesday, Dortmund conceded a late equaliser to draw 1-1 at home to 10-man Fortuna Duesseldorf as Stefan Reisinger put the guests level on 78 minutes after Poland captain Jakub Blaszczykowski had scored for Dortmund on 43 minutes.

Schalke suffered a 3-1 defeat at Hamburg to drop to fourth in the league, while Frankfurt are down to fifth after their 3-1 defeat at home to Mainz.

Hanover 96 moved up into sixth, amongst the European places, with a 2-0 win at home to second-from-bottom Greuther Fuerth with goals by Senegal striker Mame Diouf and Swiss defender Mario Eggmann.

## Puerto Rico say goodbye to Camacho



SAN JUAN (AFP) - Hundreds of Puerto Ricans filed into a sports arena Tuesday to pay their last respects to Hector "Macho" Camacho, with fellow ex-boxers calling him a source of great pride for their island territory. Tuesday's wake was attended by government officials and a host of people from the boxing world -- fight officials as well as more than 20 former world champions. "Each and every one of us, the world champions, feel proud of what Camacho did for boxing, because not only was he was one of the best fighters ever to come from this island, but also of the world's best," said Puerto Rican boxing great Felix "Tito" Trinidad.

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## NBA: Turner shines as 76ers hold off Mavs

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (AFP) - Evan Turner scored 22 points and the Philadelphia 76ers turned back a late rally by Dallas to post a 100-98 NBA victory over the Mavericks on Tuesday.

Thaddeus Young added 20 points and Jrue Holiday had 18 along with seven assists for the 76ers, who engineered a 10-0 scoring run midway through the fourth quarter to break an 81-81 tie.

But the Mavericks kept it interesting, cutting a 100-93 deficit with less than two minutes to play to 100-98 thanks to a three-pointer and a driving layup by Vince Carter.

The Mavericks had a chance to tie it when O.J.



Dallas Mavericks' Elton Brand, left, loses the ball

Mayo was fouled in the lane with 2.5 seconds remaining.

After Mayo missed the first shot from the foul line, he intentionally missed the second to give Dallas's Jae Crowder a last chance off the rebound, but Crowder's shot failed to drop as time expired.

their last 10 contests.

Former Sixer Elton Brand scored a season-best 17 points and pulled down eight rebounds in his return to Philadelphia.

Philadelphia let Brand go under the one-time amnesty provision in the off-season,



Philadelphia 76ers' Jrue Holiday, left, dives for a loose ball from Dallas Mavericks' Dominique Jones

Philadelphia held Mayo, the Mavericks' leading scorer averaging more than 21 points per game, to 11 points on four-for-20 shooting.

Chris Kaman led the Mavericks with 20 points and Shawn Marion had 17 in the defeat, which was the Mavericks' second straight and their seventh in

meaning the \$18.1 million he was owed in the last season of his contract didn't count against their salary cap.

The Sixers used their one-time amnesty provision over the summer in the new labor deal to let Brand go, and the Mavericks claimed him off waivers.



BEAVER CREEK, CO (AFP) : Siegmar Klotz of Italy descends the course during men's downhill training at the Audi FIS World Cup on the Birds of Prey on November 28, 2012 in Beaver Creek, Colorado.

## Van Persie scores fastest goal of EPL season



LONDON (AFP) - Manchester United striker Robin van Persie needed just 33 seconds to score the fastest goal of the English Premier League season so far when he put the leaders ahead against West Ham on Wednesday. The Dutch forward delighted the Old Trafford faithful when, after receiving the ball from Michael Carrick, his first touch eluded Winston Reid before his finish deflected off James Collins and looped over keeper Jussi Jaaskelainen. Van Persie's goal was all the more extraordinary as, prior to Wednesday's match, United had conceded the first goal 13 times already this season. His effort trumped that of his former Arsenal team-mate Theo Walcott, who took a comparatively sedate 52 seconds to give the Gunners the lead at Everton on Wednesday. Manchester United beat West Ham 1-0 to remain top of the Premier League.

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## Baseball: Bonds, Clemens head Hall of Fame ballot



**Sammy Sosa**

NEW YORK (AFP) - Major League Baseball's so-called "steroid era" is sure to come under renewed scrutiny as Hall of Fame voters consider a 2013 ballot that includes Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa.

Former Giants slugger Bonds is baseball's all-time home run leader with 762 over 22 seasons and also set the single-season mark for homers with 73 in 2001.

Clemens is a seven-time Cy Young award-winning

pitcher, while Sosa hit 609 homers in his career.

Hall of Fame voters will now have to weigh whether doping allegations that tainted their achievements should keep them out of the shrine.

Bonds was sentenced to 30 days of house arrest and two years of probation for giving misleading testimony in connection with the BALCO steroid distribution probe, a conviction he later appealed.

While he was convicted of

obstruction of justice, jurors deadlocked on three other perjury charges against him.

Bonds' personal trainer Greg Anderson pleaded guilty to steroid distribution charges stemming from his involvement with BALCO.



**Roger Clemens**

Clemens was acquitted on charges of perjury, making false statements and obstructing Congress for denying in



**Mark McGwire**

testimony before lawmakers that he took performance-enhancing drugs.

Mark McGwire who in 1998 became the first player to hit 70 homers in a season, is on the ballot again, but so far his fate in the balloting appears to reflect a reluctance to enshrine players linked to doping.

McGwire, who admitted in 2010 that he had used steroids during his career, has never received as much as 25

percent in six appearances on the ballot.

Players may stay on the ballot for up to 15 years provided they receive 5 percent of the vote each year.

Rafael Palmeiro, among only four players with 500 home runs and 3,000 hits in his career, was suspended 10 days in 2005 after a positive drugs test. He returns to the ballot after twice failing to gain election.